

Application No.: 09/885,937
Art Unit 2637

Attorney Docket No. 0465-0840P
Amendment filed December 13, 2004
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REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the very thorough consideration given the present application.

Claims 1-20 are now present in this application. Claims 1, 7 and 13 are independent.

Amendments have been made to the specification, claims 19 and 20 have been added, and claims 1-5, 7-11, 13 and 15-17 have been amended. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

I. Priority Under 35 U.S.C. § 119

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging Applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119, and receipt of the certified priority document.

II. Drawings

The Office Action indicates that the drawings are accepted by the Examiner.

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III. Specification Amendments

Applicant has amended the specification in order to correct minor typographical errors and to place the specification in better form. No new matter has been added.

IV. Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claims 1-18 because of several informalities. In order to overcome this objection, Applicant has amended claims 1-5, 7, 9-11, 13 and 15-17 in order to correct the deficiencies pointed out by the Examiner. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

V. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner states that claims 1-18 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the claim objections. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the early indication of allowable subject matter in this application.

VI. New Claims

Claims 19 and 20 have been added for the Examiner's consideration. Applicant submits that claims 19 and 20 depend from allowable claims 15 and

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16, respectively, and are therefore allowable based on their dependence from allowable claims. Claims 19 and 20 have been added for clarification after incorporating the Examiner's suggested changes into claims 15 and 16. Consideration and allowance of claims 19 and 20 are respectfully requested.

VII. Cited References

Since the references cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but have merely been cited to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

VIII. Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone

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James T. Eller, Jr., Registration No. 39,538, at (703) 205-8000, in the Washington, D.C. area.

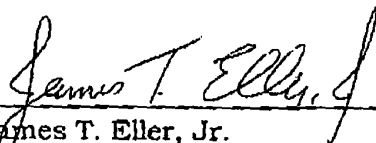
Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By:


James T. Eller, Jr.
Reg. No.: 39,538

JTE:mmi:trb

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
Telephone: (703)205-8000

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